

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SREF, VS, JA, US

SUBJECT: EMIGRATION OF VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF US CITIZENS

REFS: (-A) STATE 12260; (B) STATE 292858; (C) TOKYO 1441

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED EMIGRATION OF JAPANESE FROM SVN WITH FORMER CHARGE KOJI WATANABE AND DISCOVERED THAT SOME OF THE INFORMATION IN REF C WAS INACCURATE. NUMBERS ARE CORRECT BUT VIETNAMESE NATIONALS, PROVIDED THEY WERE MARRIED PRIOR TO LAST APRIL 30, HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO DEPART SVN WITH THEIR SPOUSES UTILIZING A SPECIAL TRAVEL DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE PRGSVN WHICH SERVES AS A PASSPORT. CHILDREN OF JAPANESE FATHERS AND VIETNAMESE NATIONAL MOTHERS HAVE ALSO BEEN PERMITTED TO DEPART SVN. WATANABE NOTED THAT SUCH CHILDREN HAVE DUAL NATIONALITY. SOME HAVE BEEN ISSUED JAPANESE PASSPORTS BUT OTHERS HAVE TRAVELED ON PRGSVN TRAVEL PAPERS. WATANABE SAID THAT NO JAPANESE WHO WAS NOT IN SVN LAST APRIL AND SEPARATED FROM HIS VIETNAMESE FAMILY HAS ATTEMPTED THUS FAR TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR HIS FAMILY TO DEPART SVN. NO VIETNAMESE NATIONAL SISTERS, BROTHERS OR PARENTS OF JAPANESE SPOUSES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO DEPART, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONE PARENTAL CASE WHICH MAY SERVE AS A TEST IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPRISALS, OF WHICH HE IS AWARE,
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AGAINST VIETNAMESE RELATIVES WHO REMAINED IN SVN. AS

CHARGE, HE ENCOURAGED JAPANESE WHO HAD NOT BEEN IN SVN TOO LONG, TO DEPART AND RETURN TO JAPAN. MOST PERSONS IN THIS CATEGORY HAD WORKED FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES IN SVN AND THEY ARE UNABLE TO FIND WORK IN THE "NEW VIETNAM." TO JAPANESE WHO HAVE BEEN IN SVN FOR MANY YEARS, MARRIED TO VIETNAMESE, AND WITH SOME PROSPECTS FOR WORK, WATANABE POINTED OUT THAT JAPAN HAD CHANGED IMMENSELY SINCE THEY LEFT 20-35 YEARS AGO, AND URGED THAT THEY CONSIDER WHICH COUNTRY WOULD BE MOST SUITABLE FOR THE FUTURE. SOME JAPANESE IN THESE CATEGORIES, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER, HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAVE THEIR SPOUSES IN VN UNTIL THEY HAVE DETERMINED POSSIBILITIES IN JAPAN. NO SUCH JAPANESE RETURNEE HAS YET TRIED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR VIETNAMESE SPOUSES TO JOIN THEM IN JAPAN, SO THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN TESTED BY JAPANESE.

3. EMIGRATION PERMITS FOR JAPANESE NATIONALS AND THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN HAVE TAKEN ABOUT ONE MONTH TO OBTAIN. DELAY RESULTED FROM EXTENSIVE CHECKS TO MAKE CERTAIN NO DEBTS OR OTHER MATTERS WERE BEING ABANDONED. APPROVAL, AT LEAST FOR JAPANESE NATIONALS, HAS EVENTUALLY BEEN GRANTED. WATANABE SAID THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY OTHER NATIONALS, INCLUDING AMERICANS BUT EXCLUDING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA EMBASSY PERSONNEL, WOULD NOT BE TREATED THE SAME WAY.

4. IF DEPARTMENT HAS FURTHER QUESTIONS, WE WILL RAISE THEM WITH WATANABE, WHO HAS BEEN TOLD TO REST AND DECIDE AT HIS LEISURE WHAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DO NEXT.
HODGSON

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